



Jesse Curry

Jesse E. Curry, ex-police chief, dies after suffering heart attack

By TRAVIS BROWN
Staff Writer

Jesse E. Curry, Dallas police chief when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, died late Sunday at Baylor Medical Center after suffering a heart attack at his home.

Curry, who was 66, drove the lead car in the motorcade carrying Kennedy through downtown Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. The police department, un-

der Curry's direction, first was praised after officers quickly arrested Kennedy's suspected assassin.

But after Lee Harvey Oswald was shot to death on national television by nightclub owner Jack Ruby in the basement of the Dallas police station, Curry became the focal point for much of the scorn and ridicule heaped on Dallas.

Curry's wife, Bee, said her husband suffered "either a massive stroke or a

heart attack" Sunday night as he was lying in bed working a crossword puzzle. Curry was pronounced dead at the emergency room at Baylor at 10:55 p.m.

Curry became Dallas police chief on Jan. 20, 1960, and retired in 1966 after serving 30 years on the force. He worked as director of security for the Texas Bank Building from 1966 until 1975, when he retired.

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Curry's wife said he suffered from diabetes and that he suffered a stroke in 1978 as he drove an auto on Greenville near Lovers Lane.

After the Kennedy assassination, Curry later said critics were unjustified in placing the responsibility for Kennedy's assassination on the police department.

However, he contended there was no justification for Oswald's slaying while in the custody of his department.

Curry was born in Hamilton but had lived in Dallas since he was two years old, his wife said. She said he held several offices at St. John's Methodist Church and was a member of the choir there.

Funeral arrangements will be handled by Ed. C. Smith & Brother mortuary.

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